



**Town of Arlington, Massachusetts**  
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## **Conservation Commission Minutes 10/04/2012**

Arlington Conservation Commission  
 Minutes  
 October 4, 2012

Mr. Stevens called the meeting to order at 7:45 p.m. in the second floor conference room of the Town Hall Annex. Present were Nathaniel Stevens, David White, Eileen Coleman, Michelle Durocher, Curt Connors and Charles Tirone of the Commission. Also present were Bill Hayne, Tami Olson, Alex Murray, Marla Keene, Allary Braitsch, MaryEllen Aranow, Patricia Worden, Justin Quattrini, William Flynn, MD., John Worden, Robert Friedlieu, Rosemary Schuhe, Brian Murray, Adam Chapelaine, Clarissa Rowe and Andrew Fischer.

### **7:45 pm – Commission Business**

White/Coleman motioned to approve the **9/6 minutes**; motion passed unanimously.

Coleman/White motioned to approve the **9/20 minutes**; motion passed unanimously.

The Commission discussed the letter Mr. White had drafted on behalf of the Conservation Commission and Open Space Committee to the Selectmen requesting that the Selectmen pursue the matter of easement in order to regain public access through the **Arlington Catholic field**. On Mr. Tirone's suggestion, Mr. White agreed to add in a line about access from Cusack Terrace, the senior housing. The letter will be on Open Space letterhead. Tirone/Coleman motioned to approve and send the letter.

Mr. Stevens reminded the Board that a site visit to **Arlington Reservoir** is scheduled for Oct. 5.

Mr. Stevens noted that the mulch piles are gone from **Mt. Pleasant Cemetery** adjacent to Meadowbrook Park and encouraged the Commission members to check the condition of the uncovered soils should they visit.

Ms. Durocher's meeting with Adam Kurowski, GIS Coordinator, to discuss the changes proposed at the previous **Walking Book** (Open Spaces of Arlington) subcommittee meeting was fruitful. Mr. Kurowski proposes to attend the next subcommittee meeting.

Mr Quattrini had previously proposed that his **Hemlock Street** property was not properly designated and therefore might not fall under Article 97. Town Counsel rebuffed this proposition since the land was not sold but transferred to the Town and hence the property is still subject to Article 97.

A short discussion ensued in Mr. Quattrini's absence. Mr. White was concerned that the Town receives land of equivalent land conservation value in an exchange. Mr. Tirone reminded the Commission that Mr. Quattrini had declared he would approach other town boards; he wondered if Mr. Quattrini had spoken to the Selectmen and/or Clarissa Rowe and pointed out that the trees on the portion of land proposed for exchange would add to the Town's tree population. Mr. Connors noted that he would like Mr. Quattrini retain counsel and get a proper survey.

The **Addison St.** dock will soon be removed by the owner, who does not intend to reinstate it.

It is unknown if Ms. Beckwith has conducted a site walk yet to **317 Mystic St.**

Ms. Durocher was curious if letter had been sent to owner of **64 Wright St.** yet regarding permits for structures on the property.

Mr. White informed the Commission that the **Open Space Committee** is trying to identify parcels along Mill Brook. The initial Master Plan meeting will take place on October 17.



### 8pm - **Request for Determination of Applicability** – Route 2 stormwater improvements

Mr. Alex Murray, DOT Impaired Waters Project Manager, described the proposed retrofit of the stormwater management system along Route 2. The project is intended to reduce the effect of stormwater runoff from impervious surfaces by intercepting the water from smaller, frequent, “dirtier” storms that currently runs into Spy Pond. There will be some work in grassy and wooded areas within the 100-foot buffer that will include tree removal. DOT will reseed and would consider replanting but minimally so as to maintain sight distances. No work will be conducted in the 50-foot buffer. The jurisdictional portion of the project is in Arlington.

Mr. Tirone asked about storm sizes and overflow that occurs closest to the southwest corner of Spy Pond. The engineers from VHB explained that the sizing is in inches rather than storm sizes and is designed as large as allowed by regulations and that when the stormwater overtops the infiltration swale it will flow into the old system. Mr. Tirone envisioned that many of the pipes in the Spy Pond Basin would subsequently work better. In responses to questions from the audience, Mr. Murray explained that the work would be conducted between the on-ramp and Route 2; that size and availability of land limited the design capacity (i.e. not necessarily for 100-year storm); and accepted that checking the operability of the existing pipes could be conducted as a condition.

Mr. Stevens asked how long the project would take. Mr. Murray responded that the project would take a few weeks, occurring either at the end of 2012 or beginning of 2013.

Mr. Tirone asked if the soil would be uncovered. Mr. Murray responded that disturbed soils would not remain exposed over winter. They could be seeded, mulched, covered with an erosion control blanket and the soil would be reseeded subsequent to blanket removal if growth does not occur. The construction contract includes a condition for removal of hay bales and compost filter tubes.

Highway personal could accompany Ms. Beckwith to facilitate access. Tomi Olsen asked about notification of abutters to which Mr. Stevens responded that notification is not required for an RDA and the Commission tends not to request it. Mr. Murray admitted that a newspaper notice would be a good idea and noted that he is willing to be a liaison between the DOT and the public.

#### Proposed Conditions:

- Removal of erosion control once grass is established or upon site stabilization.
- Use of straw bales rather than hay.
- Inspection of pipes going into Spy Pond.

White/Connors motioned to issue a negative Determination of Applicability with the above conditions; motion passed unanimously.

#### Commission Business (cont.):

Mr White informed the Commission that the paving at the **Hurd Field parking lot** appears to be complete, lines are painted, informational sign is posted and the lot should be open by October 13.

Discussion of the **Hemlock St land** resumed in Mr. Quattrini's presence. Mr. Stevens informed Mr. Quattrini that legal counsel had determined the land was still subject to Article 97. Ms. Garnett had offered to introduce Mr. Quattrini to Irene Delbono, but that had not occurred and Ms Garnett is now away. Mr. Stevens offered to introduce the two parties.

Mr. Quattrini said he had been reluctant to approach other boards unless he knew the Conservation Commission supported his land exchange proposal. Mr. Tirone pointed out that he would need the support of the Selectmen and Town Meeting as well as the Commission. Mr. Stevens suggested Mr Quattrini could tell the other boards that the Conservation Commission is still considering or pursuing his land-exchange proposal and agreed to draft a letter to that effect. He also advised Mr. Quattrini to retain legal counsel to examine the legality of zoning, among other issues. Mr. Quattrini confirmed that he will approach the Selectmen with said letter.

Dr. Bill Flynn, one of the owners of **22 Mill St.**, which is a historic Building, described a series of events that may have been attributable to this tree. The sidewalk had buckled; large branches had fallen; a major water leak had required DPW's attention; water had leaked into the building's basement. In addition, large branches are precariously close to the building. The building management would like to know how the tree can be retained while removing some roots and branches. The Tree Warden has been informed but could not attend tonight.

Mr. White asked if the building management has consulted an arborist. Dr. Flynn declared they had not but are willing



to do so.

Clarissa Rowe, in her capacity as landscape architect, provided a picture of the tree in 1897 before the Mill Brook was channelized and offered to work pro bono with the building management to come up with a plan to deal with the tree and building. She also advised having an arborist and possibly a structural engineer examine the site. John Warden, who also works from 22 Mill St. suggested that the building management confer with a Mr. Murray (of the Mass Tree Land Trust) who was also in the audience.

Mr. Stevens invited the 22 Mill St. Management to return for another working session after meeting the arborist and engineer.

The new **Town Manager** Adam Chapdelaine, introduced himself to the members of the Commission.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Eileen Coleman  
Commission Commission